

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

November 15, 2002

In re application of : Robert M. Carmichael
Serial No. : 09/730,116
Filed : December 5, 2000
For : **ACTIVE CONTROL RELEASABLE BALLAST
SYSTEM FOR USE WITH DIVE EQUIPMENT**
Examiner : Ajay Vasudeva
Art Unit : 3617
Our File No. : 9297.6817 (previous 10464.6803)

AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the Office Action dated July 15, 2002, please
amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the application as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An active control releasable ballast
system for dive equipment, comprising:
a ballast receiving pocket;
a ballast member stored within said receiving pocket prior
to release of said ballast member;
a first strap attached at least proximate to said receiving
pocket;
a second strap attached at least proximate to said receiving
pocket, said second strap associated with said ballast member;
and
a side releasable buckle, excluding hook and loop fasteners,
said side releasable buckle having a first section and a second